Harold Weisberg 11-9-68

There is a real, live, Cubanish Roberto Martinez Martinez

Having said this, I have exhausted all FBI contact with reality in the Steinmeeyer report about him, if I am to believe what he told me this morning - and I do.

I tape-recorded an interview with him, partly in the presence of his wife, in their neat, well-furnished second-floor apartment at 3122 Magazine St., which is entered from behind the commercial property along the street, through an alley between the buildings. It is in a largely Cuban neighborhood. The yard was neat, with potted green plants cattered through it.

My ringing of the bell at about 11 a.m. apparently awakened him and his wife. He was garbed in only a white terrycloth robe. She did not show until after she had brewed strong coffee.

Not the one agent who signed the report interviewed Martinez, but two. One only spoke. He believed the second was of Spanish derrivation, although he said not a word. Martinez has good comprehension but speaks with a heavy accent and limited vocabulary. The interview was at the Reiss Candy Co., with no fellow employees present, as Martinez tells the story.

He never saw Oswald, never saw the literature distribution, did not leave Reiss at lunch time, and told all of this to the agents.

He did know Bright, who had befriended him, but now does not know his whereabouts. Martinez has served 3 years in prison in Tallahassee, apparently for some shipboard or maritime offense, says he was transferred to N.O. Parish Prison and, on April 11, 1963, was released with but $2.00 to his name. Bright directed him to Ozanam Inn. Here, casually, he met one Rafael, a Negro Cuban, slight and asthmatic. He says he has no knowledge of any of the rest of it and so told the FBI.

Martinez is not an apparently successful small painting contractor. His flat is neat, clean, furnished with items not cheap. He has a grown son, apparently by an earlier marriage, who made a beautiful model of an old sailing ship which is kept on a cocktail table. He is 5'9", well-built, with all his teeth seemingly some (or his mouth so shaped). Rather than blond his ample hair is brown. He says one agent was a little shorter than he, the other shorter still. He is entirely at a loss to understand how they could have ~~xxx~~ written the reports I showed him but suggested they may have been looking for another of his name, which really explains nothing. He seemed genuinely upset over the reports.